



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL



MAIN OFFICE
P.O. BOX 6990
AUBURN, CA 95604
PH: (530)889-7800 FAX: (530)889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION
DRAWER 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
PH: (530)581-6300 FAX: (530)581-6377

EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: September 18, 2003 at 9:30 A.M.
Date/Time of Occurrence: September 17, 2003 at 8:30 P.M.
Nature of Call: Vanderschoot Update / Murder Arrests / Press Conference
Location of Call: Placer County Sheriff's Office
Case Number: SO03-13319
Released by: Sgt. John Addoms, 530/889-7856

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

On September 2, 2003, Justine Vanderschoot was reported by her family as a missing person. She was last known to have been home the previous night at about 11:00 p.m. The Placer County Sheriff's Office immediately began an intensive investigation into the circumstances of Justine's disappearance.

On the morning of Wednesday, September 17, 2003, agents from the Sacramento office of the FBI and the Placer County Sheriff's Office met in Auburn to discuss a plan that was carried out later that day to conduct a number of searches and interviews in relationship to this case. At 8:30 p.m., as a result of that joint effort, Daniel Bezemer, age 18, and Brandon Fernandez, age 21, both from Auburn, were arrested for the murder of Justine. Bezemer was Justine's boyfriend at the time of her disappearance, and Fernandez was a friend and roommate of Bezemer.

Justine's family has been notified of the arrest and of current attempts to locate Justine's body. We are not prepared to release any information regarding the evidence in this case or the ongoing investigative efforts.

The Sheriff's Office is still seeking information related to this case and encourages anyone who believes they have information to please contact the Sheriff's Office.

The arrests are the result of the joint efforts of the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Sacramento FBI. Bezemer and Fernandez are being held at the Placer County Jail without bail and are scheduled to be arraigned on Friday in Department 13.

The media are invited to attend a news conference at the Placer County Sheriff's Office this morning, September 18, 2003, at 11:00 a.m.



Brandon Fernandez



Daniel Bezemer